

Understanding the Times

Biology Study Guide

Christianity

1. What aspect of Christianity may have been the most troubling over the last century?
2. Why have many Christians struggled to reconcile their faith and science?
3. What is the proposed “middle ground” between creation and evolution? Briefly explain it.
4. What does evolution mean for Adam and Eve?
5. What if Adam and Eve were only an allegory?
6. Define *microevolution*. Give examples. Is it scientifically possible?
7. Define *macroevolution*.
8. Explain evolution as it is taught in public schools.
9. Which “old lesson” is science re-learning?
10. Define teleology.
11. What does evolution assume?
12. According to Walter Brown, how does DNA assume an intelligent beginning?
13. What genetic “limitation” supports intelligent design?
14. Discuss spontaneous generation as it relates to creation and evolution.
15. That lack of what evidence poses a problem for macroevolution? Explain why.
16. Define *Cambrian Explosion*.
17. Which argument lends the strongest support to Creationism?
18. What kind of change is critical to evolutionary theory?
19. Why might evolutionary theory require more faith than a belief in creation?
20. Why do many evolutionists hold to a flawed theory?

Islam

21. How do Islam and Christianity agree on creation and a creator?

Secular Humanism

22. How important is atheistic evolution to secular humanism?
23. How does secular humanism view creationism?
24. Explain the secular humanist approach to science.
25. Explain why neither creationism nor evolution is strictly scientific.
26. Name two scientifically unproven theories accepted by secular humanism.
27. What is the secular humanist theory of the origin of life? Why?
28. Explain natural selection.
29. Why are some humanists cautious about “survival of the fittest?”
30. What is the only way to observe steps in the evolutionary process?
31. What theory forces the fossil record to fit into the evolutionary mold? Explain.
32. Why haven’t we found fossil links to substantiate punctuated equilibrium?
33. How might Darwin react to punctuated equilibrium?

Marxism/Leninism

34. How did Marx understand evolution in relation to society?
35. Why is spontaneous regeneration the most important evolutionary theory for Marxists?
36. How did Darwinian evolution seem to fit with the Marxist dialectic? Why doesn’t it really fit?

Cosmic Humanism

37. Explain “cosmic evolution.” Do not use the box on p. 196.)
38. Compare the Christian, Secular Humanist, and Cosmic Humanist views of science.

39. Explain cosmic humanism's psychological evolution.
40. What will most cosmic humanists settle for if psychological evolution doesn't happen?
41. Explain the *Gaia Hypothesis*.

Postmodernism

42. What are the three current forms of evolutionary theory?
43. Why do postmodernists shy away from theories of origin?
44. How do postmodernists view science? Explain this view from the works of Paul Feyerabend and Thomas Kuhn.
45. For postmodernists who do hold to a theory of origins, why are they drawn to evolution?
46. How does Christianity view science and scientists?
47. How can science show contradictions and unreliability in postmodernism?

Icons of Evolution

48. How do Haeckel's drawings seem to support Darwinism?
49. What was the problem with Haeckel's drawings?
50. Define micro- and macroevolution.
51. What is neo-Darwinism?
52. What is homology? Explain whether or not Darwin's theory of homology fits the available evidence.
53. What is the Cambrian explosion? How does it challenge evolution's progression of life?

Mysteries of Life's Origins

54. What is *irreducible complexity*?
55. What is DNA?
56. How do humans recognize design?
57. What is the fundamental question of biology? What are the possible answers?
58. For Darwin, what undirected forces led to life? Express it mathematically.
59. Why does cell structure cast doubts on Darwinism?